

NAVMC 2630

MARINE CORPS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. MARINE CORPS

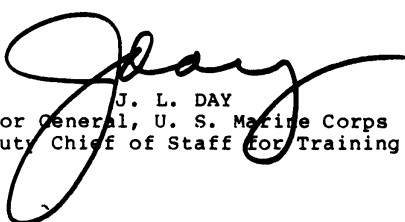
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FOREWORD

All matters presented in this publication, NAVMC 2630, are for information only; they carry no mandatory provisions and shall not be considered as modifying or revoking any order, directive, or regulation in effect.

For requisitioning instructions, see the current edition of MCO P5600.31, Marine Corps Publications and Printing Regulations.

Reviewed and approved this date.



J. L. DAY
Major General, U. S. Marine Corps
Deputy Chief of Staff for Training

DISTRIBUTION: A

MARINE CORPS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

RECORD OF CHANGES

Log completed change action as indicated.

Change Number	Date of Change	Date Received	Date Entered	Signature of Person Entering Change

MARINE CORPS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

CONTENT

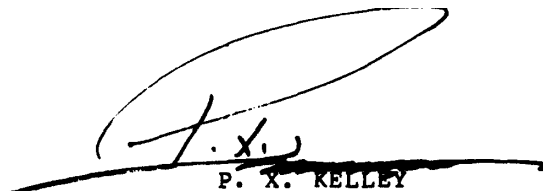
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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Accepting challenges and turning them into accomplishments are as integral a part of being a Marine as wearing the uniform. The professional worth of Marines is clearly demonstrated by their willingness to meet the challenges of military service. To overcome these hurdles may require physical strength, stamina, dexterity, and daring. Furthermore, problem solving skills, judgment, and specialized knowledge may play important roles in ultimately meeting the challenge. Just as Marines are accustomed to maintaining their bodies in peak physical condition, so must they direct the same care and attention to the growth and development of their mental abilities. The Marine Corps provides for the mental development of its personnel through the wide variety of educational programs listed herein.

Marine Corps educational programs include all aspects of professional development from basic skills training through the attainment of a doctorate degree. This booklet provides a brief overview of the major educational options open to Marine Corps personnel. The broad scope of these programs ensures that every Marine has a viable opportunity for individual development. The education officer at each Marine Corps installation can assist Marines in exploring these opportunities in greater detail and in selecting the most appropriate program for reaching each Marines personal and professional goals.

In a very personal way, education links us with our heritage and provides the keys to unlock a future of success and accomplishment. I challenge all Marines to take advantage of the educational opportunities available through the Corps to develop their capabilities to the greatest extent possible commensurate with military commitments. Acceptance of this challenge will lead to an investment in a brighter future for our nation, the Marine Corps, and you.



P. X. KELLEY
General, U. S. Marine Corps

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to assist Marines in developing to their full potential through the opportunities for educational advancement provided by the Marine Corps. Although most Marine Corps programs described herein provide nonmilitary education in civilian schools, colleges, and universities, these programs are designed to increase military proficiency and potential, as well as to satisfy personal educational goals.

This booklet provides a brief description of the major educational opportunities available to Marines. It is not intended to be used as a reference in itself, but rather as an introduction which provides the appropriate reference sources for further investigation by interested Marines.

Questions regarding the Marine Corps orders, bulletins, and publications listed in this booklet may be directed to the education officer assigned to the Marine Corps installation or to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TDE), Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380.

ADVANCED DEGREE PROGRAM

The Advanced Degree Program provides selected Marine officers with the opportunity to earn a postgraduate degree by attending a college or university as full-time students.

ELIGIBILITY:

This program is available to Regular officers or Reserve officers with career status in the grades of first lieutenant through lieutenant colonel. The applicant must be able to complete the requirements for the advanced degree within a maximum period of 18 months.

AREAS OF STUDY:

- Aeronautical Engineering
- Applied Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Communication Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- History
- International Relations/Affairs
- Computer Science (Technical)
- Education
- Electronics Engineering
- Financial Management
- Management and Industrial Engineering
- Management Data Systems (Computer Science, Nontechnical)
- Managerial Economics
- Material Management
- Nuclear Engineering
- Operations Analysis
- Ordnance Systems Engineering
- Public Relations/Journalism
- Research and Development (Management)
- Systems Acquisition Management
- Technology of Management

ASSISTANCE:

Officers ordered to the Advanced Degree Program receive regular pay and allowances. Tuition and matriculation fees, cost of books and materials, and all similar fees and expenses must be borne by the officer concerned.

OBLIGATION:

An officer participating in this program incurs a four-year obligation after completing the degree requirements or a three-year obligation if the requirements are completed within one calendar year.

APPLICATION:

Disciplines for which requirements exist will be published annually by separate bulletin. Applications should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMOA-3) 30 days prior to convening date of the annual selection board. Applications should contain all information required by the annual bulletin (1560 series) which solicits applications.

SELECTION:

Applicants are evaluated by a selection board for both academic and career potential. Academic potential is determined by evaluating scholastic achievements, both as full-time students and through off-duty education. Career potential is determined by a review of the applicants' military records.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1560.19 and a current Marine Corps bulletin in the 1560 series.

BROADENED OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICER
SELECTION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

The Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) Program provides an opportunity for selected Marines of all ethnic groups from educationally deprived or culturally differentiated backgrounds to compete more equitably for selection to the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP), the U.S. Naval Academy, or the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC). The program provides a 12 month education program for selected Marines to prepare them for entrance into these programs.

ELIGIBILITY:

This program is open to all active duty enlisted Marines who meet the eligibility requirements. To be eligible, a Marine must be a lance corporal or above with one year of active service after completion of recruit training by 1 July of the year in which the application is made. The applicant must be at least 19, but not have reached 25 years of age, as of 1 July of the year in which assignment to the program is made and be a high school graduate or have successfully passed the GED high school level tests with a minimum standard score indicating performance at the 45th percentile in each of the five areas. In addition, applicants must possess a minimum SAT score of 800 or an EL on the ASVAB of at least 110 and be recommended by their commanding officers.

ASSISTANCE:

Marines ordered to the BOOST Program receive regular pay and allowances (excluding proficiency pay), promotional opportunities, and normal leave.

OBLIGATION:

The applicant must agree to reenlist or extend in order to have three years obligated service in the Regular Marine Corps upon assignment to the program.

APPLICATION:

Applications should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MRRO-6) by 31 October of the year preceding the year in which participation in the program is desired.

SELECTION:

Applicants will be interviewed at each level of command. A board will convene annually at Headquarters Marine Corps to select those Marines found to be the best qualified on the basis of their total records, including, but not limited to, the substance of the applications, the recommendations of the commanding officers, the

nterview reports, academic achievements, past performance as Marines, and future potential for successful completion of college and for subsequent commissioning as Marine officers.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1560.24.

COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAM

The College Degree Program (CDP) provides selected Marine officers with the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree by attending a college or university as a full-time student.

ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in this program is limited to Regular officers and Reserve officers with career status in the grades of warrant officer through lieutenant colonel who have sufficient college credits to permit them to obtain baccalaureate degrees within a maximum period of 18 months.

ASSISTANCE:

Officers ordered to CDP receive regular pay and allowances. Tuition and matriculation fees, cost of books and materials, and all similar fees and expenses must be borne by the officer concerned.

OBLIGATION:

An officer participating in this program incurs a four-year obligation after completing the degree requirements or a three-year obligation if the requirements are completed within one year.

APPLICATION:

Applications should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMOA-3) at least six months prior to the date on which commencement of study under the program is desired.

SELECTION:

Applicants are evaluated by a selection board for both academic and career potential. Academic potential is determined by evaluating scholastic achievements, both as full-time students and through off-duty education. Career potential is determined by a review of the applicant's military records.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1560.7.

DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM FOR STAFF
NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS

The Degree Completion Program for Staff Noncommissioned Officers provides selected Marine staff noncommissioned officers with the opportunity to obtain a baccalaureate degree which directly relates to a Marine Corps billet and, concurrently, satisfy a personal educational goal by attending a college or university as a full-time student.

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility is limited to regular Marines in the grades of staff sergeant (including staff sergeant selectees) through first sergeant/master sergeant who have sufficient college credits to permit them to obtain a baccalaureate degree within a maximum period of 18 months. First sergeants will be required to redesignate to master sergeant.

ASSISTANCE:

Staff noncommissioned officers ordered to the Degree Completion Program receive regular pay and allowances. Tuition and matriculation fees, cost of books and materials, and all similar fees and expenses must be borne by the individual concerned.

OBLIGATION:

A staff noncommissioned officer-participating in this program incurs a four-year obligation after completing the degree requirements. Upon completion of degree requirements, the participant will be assigned a new primary or additional military occupational specialty, as appropriate, commensurate with the participant's area of study. As soon thereafter as practicable, the participant will be assigned to a tour in a designated billet. Subsequent assignments will be made in accordance with Marine Corps personnel requirements.

APPLICATION:

Disciplines for which requirements exist will be published annually by separate bulletin. Applications should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMEA-14) by 1 April.

SELECTION:

Applicants are evaluated by a selection board for both academic and career potential. Academic potential is determined by evaluating past scholastic achievements, both as full-time students and through off-duty education. Career potential is determined by a review of the applicants' military records.

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REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1560.21 and a current Marine Corps
Bulletin in the 1560 series.

FUNDED LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Funded Legal Education Program provides selected Marine officers with the opportunity to earn the degree of bachelor of laws or juries doctor through full-time, funded study.

ELIGIBILITY:

This program is available to active duty commissioned officers with a college degree serving in the grades of second lieutenant through captain. The applicant must have from two to six years of active service and be able to complete the law degree requirements from an accredited law school, located in the United States, within a maximum period of 36 months.

ASSISTANCE:

Officers ordered to the Funded Legal Education Program receive regular pay and allowances. The cost of tuition and matriculation fees will be paid by the United States Government and an allowance is provided for such books and other fees determined to be essential.

OBLIGATION:

The officer participating in the Funded Legal Education Program incurs a two-year obligation for each year, or part thereof, of legal training under the program. Periods of time spent at assigned duty stations during summer vacation between the completion of law school and admission to practice law, will count towards satisfaction of periods of obligated service. This obligation is to be in addition to any preexisting obligation and cannot be served concurrently.

APPLICATION:

Applications should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMOA-3) 30 days prior to the convening date of the annual selection board. Applications should include all information required by the annual bulletin (1050 series) that solicits applicants.

SELECTION:

Applicants are evaluated by a selection board for both academic and career potential. Academic potential is determined by evaluating past scholastic achievements and SAT scores. Career potential is determined by a review of the applicants military records.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of SECNAVINST 1520.7, MCO 1560.29, and the applicable current Marine Corps bulletin in the 1050 series.

MARINE CORPS ENLISTED COMMISSIONING EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) provides selected enlisted Marines with the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree by attending a college or university as full-time students. Those individuals who successfully obtain a baccalaureate degree and complete officer candidate training are commissioned second lieutenants in the Regular Marine Corps.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible, a Marine must be a corporal or above who will have one year of active service, after completion of recruit training, by 1 August of the year in which application is made. Applicants must be at least 20 and not more than 26 years of age by 1 July of the year entering college. High school graduates should have ranked in the upper 50 percent of their class and should have a minimum of 15 Carnegie units as follows: four in English, one in algebra, one in geometry, and one each in chemistry and physics. Non-high school graduates must have passed the GED high school level battery, with a minimum standard score indicating performance at the 75th percentile on each test. In addition, applicants must possess a SAT score of at least 1000 or an EL score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) of at least 115 and be recommended by their commanding officers.

ASSISTANCE:

Marines ordered to MECEP will receive regular pay and allowances. Tuition and matriculation fees, cost of books and materials, and all similar fees and expenses must be borne by the Marine concerned.

AREAS OF STUDY:

NON-TECHNICAL

Business Administration
Economics
English
History
Political Science
Sociology
Psychology
Modern Language
Journalism

TECHNICAL

Aerospace Engineering
Applied Mathematics
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Computer Science
Electrical/Electronic Engr.
Industrial Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Physics
Mathematics
Metallurgical Engineering
Nuclear Engineering
Systems/Operations Analysis

OBLIGATION:

The applicant must reenlist or extend in order to have six years obligated service in the Regular Marine Corps upon the assignment to college. The minimum obligation while enrolled is four years. Therefore, upon successful completion of the second year of college, steps will be taken by the proper authority to again reenlist or extend the MECEP student to acquire a six-year obligation. Upon graduation and commissioning, all formerly incurred enlisted service is vacated and the officer is required to serve a minimum of four years.

APPLICATION:

Applications should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MRRO-6) by 31 December of the year preceding the year in which participation in the program is desired.

SELECTION:

Applications will be screened at all levels of command, both through interviews and formal tests. Applicants must submit transcripts of all high school and college work with an explanation of the marking system used and scores on standardized tests taken, to include the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Entrance Examination Board taken within the calendar year the application is submitted. A board will convene annually at Headquarters Marine Corps to select those Marines considered to be the best qualified on the basis of their total records, including, but not limited to, the substance of the applications, the recommendations of their commanding officers, the interview reports, academic achievements, past performance as Marines, and future potential to become Marine officers. The assignment of selectees to a technical or non-technical course of study is based upon the applicant's desire, academic qualifications, and the needs of the Marine Corps. Applicants selected will be informed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MRRO-6). Upon selection, Marines will attend a 10-week MECEP Preparatory School designed to enhance their study skills prior to college attendance.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1560.15.

NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ENLISTED MARINES
TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Enlisted Marines of the Regular Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve may apply for appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible, a Marine must be a citizen of the United States, in good health, at least 17-years-old, but less than 22-years-old, on 1 July of the entering year, unmarried and have no children, a high school graduate or equivalent by 1 July of the entering year, an enlisted member of the naval service for one full year prior to 1 July of the entering year, be recommended by the commanding officer, and have taken either the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT).

ASSISTANCE:

All students at the Naval Academy receive appropriate midshipmen pay, tuition, room, and board.

OBLIGATION:

Graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy are commissioned in the Regular Marine Corps or Regular Navy and incur a five-year obligation to serve on active duty after graduation.

APPLICATION:

Applications should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Superintendent (Candidate Guidance Office), Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland 21402, by 15 December prior to the entering year. Those applicants not offered direct appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy will be considered for the Naval Academy Preparatory School if they are eligible and request such consideration.

SELECTION:

Offers of appointment to the Naval Academy are normally issued around 15 April each year. Offers of appointment to the Naval Academy Preparatory School are normally made during May.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1530.11.

NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS
(NROTC) NAVY-MARINE CORPS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The NROTC Navy-Marine Corps Scholarship Program provides an opportunity for young men and women to prepare for careers as officers in the United States Navy or Marine Corps.

ELIGIBILITY:

This program is open to all active duty Marines who meet the eligibility requirements. To be eligible, a Marine must be a United States citizen and under 25 years of age at the time of commissioning. Waivers may be granted to permit entry into the program for those Marines who will be 25 years of age or older at the time of commissioning. These waivers are based upon credit granted on a month-for-month basis for each month of prior active military service up to maximum of 28 years of age.

ASSISTANCE:

During the years of college training, the U.S. Government pays tuition, cost of textbooks, fees of an instructional nature, and provides a subsistence allowance of \$100 per month for a maximum of 40 months.

OBLIGATION:

A Marine who is selected for the NROTC Scholarship Program will be issued orders from his or her present duty station to the appropriate NROTC unit. Following reporting, the scholarship recipient will be released from active duty and transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve. Those Marines entering NROTC from active duty or the Marine Corps Reserve may be ordered to active duty to fulfill their remaining commitment if they should be disenrolled from NROTC prior to commissioning. Upon satisfying completion of naval science and baccalaureate degree requirements, a midshipman transfers from the Individual Ready Reserve to active duty status, and receives a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps or an ensign in the Navy. The program requires a minimum of four years active duty from the date of commission.

APPLICATION:

Application procedures are published annually through a Navy-Marine Corps NROTC bulletin of information. An application form is attached to the bulletin.

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SELECTION:

A selection board consisting of senior officers of the naval service screen all completed applications.

REFERENCE:

See the current editions of MCBul 1120 series and the Navy-Marine Corps NROTC Bulletin for information.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Special Education Program provides selected Marine officers with the opportunity to receive, as full-time students, advanced training which may lead to a postgraduate degree in special disciplines.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible, the applicant must be a Regular officer or Reserve officer with career status in the grade of first lieutenant through lieutenant colonel. Other eligibility requirements vary depending upon the particular curriculum. The technical curricula require a baccalaureate degree with a background in science or engineering. Completion of courses in differential and integral calculus and physics is considered minimal for direct enrollment in all technical curricula. The nontechnical curricula require a baccalaureate degree including a minimum of two semesters of college mathematics at or above the college algebra level. Completion of previous courses in differential and integral calculus is highly desirable. Acceptance to civilian educational institutions requires a baccalaureate degree preferably related to the discipline requested. In addition, candidates must meet the institution's requirements for admission, including successful completion of admission or aptitude tests.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

Participants in the Special Education Program are ordered to the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California; the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; or a designated civilian institution for study.

AREAS OF STUDY:

Aeronautical Engineering
Applied Mathematics
Chemistry
Communication Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Science (Technical)
Masters of Law (Criminal Law, Labor Law, International Law,
Environmental Law)
Electronics Engineering
Financial Management
Management and Industrial Engineering
Management Data Systems (Computer Science, Nontechnical)
Managerial Economics
Material Management
Nuclear Engineering

Operations Analysis
Ordnance Systems Engineering
Research and Development (Management)
Systems Acquisition Management
Technology of Management

ASSISTANCE:

Officers ordered to the Special Education Program receive regular pay and allowances. Participants ordered to the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, and the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, receive thesis costs only. Those participants ordered to a designated civilian institution for study, receive the cost of tuition, matriculation fees, and the cost of books and related materials.

OBLIGATION:

Officers must agree to remain on active duty, after completion of training or separation from the program, for a period of three years or, if the enrollment in school is longer than one year, for a period of four years.

APPLICATION:

A Marine Corps bulletin annually solicits applications and announces which disciplines and institutions will be available. This bulletin should be consulted prior to application. Applications should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMOA-3), as directed by the annual bulletin.

SELECTION:

Applicants are evaluated by a selection board for both academic and career potential. Academic potential is determined by evaluating past scholastic achievements, both as full-time students and through off-duty education. Career potential is determined by a review of the applicants military records.

REFERENCE:

See the current editions of MCO 1520.9 and the current Marine Corps bulletin in the 1520 series.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Secretary of the Navy Scholarship Program prescribes regulations under which naval personnel (Navy or Marine on active duty, U.S. Naval Academy or NROTC midshipman) may accept fellowships, scholarships, or grants from corporations, foundations, or funds of educational institutions organized and operated primarily for scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

APPLICATION:

Requests for permission to accept a fellowship, scholarship, or grant should be forwarded, with appropriate endorsements, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMOA-3).

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of SECNAVINST 1500.4.

MARINE CORPS TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Marine Corps Tuition Assistance Program provides Marines with financial assistance for the pursuit of approved educational programs at civilian secondary and postsecondary institutions during their off-duty time. Tuition assistance may be used at the secondary level for the completion of courses leading to a high school diploma. In addition, Marines may apply tuition assistance benefits to college courses taken for academic credit at regionally accredited colleges and universities. Tuition assistance may only be used to fund courses at a higher academic level than the degree or diploma currently held by the Marine.

ELIGIBILITY:

Members of the Regular Marine Corps and of the Marine Corps Reserve on extended active duty, and members of other military services on active duty attached to the Marine Corps are eligible for tuition assistance.

ASSISTANCE:

The Marine Corps may pay up to 75 percent of the cost of tuition for approved college courses (90 percent for enlisted, sergeant and above, with less than 14 years service) and 100 percent for high school completion. Payment is made only to a qualifying institution. The remaining tuition and matriculation fees, as well as the cost of books, materials, and similar fees and expenses, will be borne by the student.

OBLIGATION:

Under provisions of law, commissioned officers must agree to remain on active duty for a period of two years after completing participation. This agreement in no way obligates the Marine Corps to retain the officer obtaining tuition assistance. Enlisted Marines requesting tuition assistance must have sufficient service time remaining to complete the courses while on active duty. Commanding officers must certify that duties of participants are such as to enable them to participate fully in, and circumstances permitting, to complete courses in which they enroll. Voluntary withdrawals from courses and course failures for non-academic reasons require the student to reimburse the Marine Corps for any monies paid on his/her behalf to a school.

APPLICATION:

Applications and counseling are provided by the local education officer.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1560.26 and current bulletins.

COLLEGE CREDIT FOR FORMAL MILITARY TRAINING

The American Council on Education (ACE), through its Office of Educational Credit and Credentials, evaluates formal military training for civilian postsecondary credit. Credit recommendations are made to assist educational institutions in awarding appropriate credit for extrainstitutional learning while maintaining academic standards. Credit recommendations are published biennially in the ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services, commonly called the "ACE Guide."

The "ACE Guide" describes more than 100,000 military courses offered by the Department of Defense and all branches of the armed services. Credit recommendations are given in the vocational certificate category, lower division baccalaureate/associate degree category, upper division baccalaureate category, or graduate degree category as appropriate.

APPLICATION:

Marines may submit DD Form 295 (Application for the Evaluation of Educational Experiences During Military Service), DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), or course completion certificates to the registrar of the college to which they are applying. Every college assesses credit recommendations and awards credit in light of its own academic program requirements.

REFERENCE:

Current edition of the ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational experiences in the Armed Services.

SERVICEMEMBERS' OPPORTUNITY COLLEGES

The Service Members' Opportunity Colleges (SOC) is a consortium of colleges and Universities. Members have agreed to facilitate access of military personnel to higher education by minimizing residency requirements, recognizing non-traditional education attainment such as CLEP tests, easing the transfer of college credit of similarly accredited institutions, and granting credit for formal military training. The over 400 colleges and universities comprising SOC are located throughout the United States and may be found on military bases overseas. The SOC recognizes the special educational needs of service personnel brought about by military duties and forced mobility and seeks to accommodate these problems.

APPLICATION:

Information may be obtained from local education officers regarding the nearest SOC institutions and their application requirements.

REFERENCE:

See the current editions of MCO 1560.25 and the Catalog of Service Members' Opportunity Colleges.

BASIC SKILLS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Marine Corps Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP) provides on-duty, fully funded instruction in English, English as a second language, reading, and mathematics to Marines identified as deficient in one or more of these skills. The purpose of BSEP is to enhance the professional performance of Marines within their MOS's and is not to be construed as a General Education Development (GED) diploma preparation program. Participation in BSEP may be either voluntary or mandatory.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1550.23

DEFENSE ACTIVITY FOR NON-TRADITIONAL

EDUCATION SUPPORT (DANTES)

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) is an educational support service for the voluntary education programs of the military services. The primary missions of DANTES are to manage examination programs in support of the voluntary education programs of each military service and to develop and disseminate information on quality independent study courses and programs available from the civilian education community.

DANTES EXAMINATION PROGRAM:

DANTES is authorized to support the services' voluntary education programs by providing CLEP and the DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) on a worldwide basis. DANTES is also authorized to support General Education Development (GED) testing for military personnel stationed overseas. GED test scores are used as the basis for the award of state high school equivalency diplomas. Domestic GED testing is available through the civilian GED testing programs within the 50 states. In addition, DANTES makes available a variety of low and no-cost guidance tests and college admission examinations.

DANTES INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM:

The DANTES Independent Study Catalog provides information concerning independent study (correspondence) courses and credit-by-examination programs available to servicemen and women from civilian educational institutions. The catalog is designed to assist those personnel who are stationed at a particular location where traditional programs/courses are not available. Currently, the Marine Corps does not provide funding for independent study/correspondence courses.

ELIGIBILITY:

Members of the Regular Marine Corps and of the Marine Corps Reserve are eligible for DANTES services.

REFERENCE:

See the current edition of MCO 1560.27.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Educational assistance is available to eligible veterans and active duty Marines through the Veterans Administration (VA). The program for which an individual may be eligible is determined by the date of entry into the Armed Forces.

POST-VIETNAM ERA VETERANS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
ACT OF 1977

Marines entering military service on or after 1 January 1977 are eligible to participate in the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). Enrollment is voluntary, and individuals electing to participate may contribute a minimum of \$25 to a maximum of \$100 each month to a fund which will be maintained by the VA. Participants may also make lump sum contributions. The total amount of a member's contribution may not exceed \$2,700.

Benefits under the VEAP may be used upon release from active duty (under conditions other than dishonorable) or after completion of the initial obligated service period or six years, whichever is less. The VA will provide 2 for 1 matching funds for members attending VA-approved educational programs. The amount of monthly payment is determined by dividing the total amount in the fund (individual and VA contributions) by the number of months that the member contributed or 36, whichever is less. Eligible Marines may elect to participate at any time by executing the appropriate pay-roll allotment authorization.

VETERANS READJUSTMENT BENEFITS ACT
OF 1966 ("GI BILL")

Marines who entered military service between 31 January 1955 and 31 December 1976 may be eligible to receive educational assistance under the provisions of the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 (usually referred to as the "G.I. Bill". Eligible personnel may commence in-service use of benefits upon completion of 181 days of continuous active duty. Educational assistance payments are made to eligible personnel by the VA in accordance with current rates based on type of enrollment. "G.I. Bill" benefits must be used within 10 years after release from active duty or by 31 December 1989, whichever date occurs first.

APPLICATION:

Information and applicable forms for Veterans Administration Education Assistance programs may be obtained from local education officers.

REFERENCE:

See the current editions of MCO 1560.28 and applicable VA pamphlets.